our tunics;* and if we went straight into the army we served a similar probationary period, in the camp and on campaign. At that age, unless a young man could defend himself by his own strictness of conduct and purity of morals, coupled with a stern upbringing and a certain inborn virtue, he could not escape a bad reputation (and justified, too), however closely his own people kept guard over him. But a man who preserved those first beginnings of youth pure and undefiled never had aspersions cast on his reputation and morals, once he had finally grown up and become a man among men.

[12] Yes, he did support Catiline, after he had spent a number of years in the forum, Caelius that is—just as many others did, from every class and of every age. For Catiline had, as I am sure you remember, a great many indications of the highest qualities*—not fully developed, mind you, but sketched in outline. He mixed with numerous individuals of bad character; yet he pretended to be devoted to the best of men. He had the effect of degrading those around him; yet he could also stimulate them to effort and hard work. The fires of passion burned within him; yet he was a keen student of military affairs. For my part I do not think the world has ever seen a creature made up of such contrary, divergent, and mutually incompatible interests and appetites.

[13] Who was more agreeable, at one particular time, to men of high rank,* and who more intimate with scoundrels? Who at one time a more patriotic citizen, and who a more loathsome enemy of this country? Who more corrupt in his pleasures, and who more able to endure hard work? Who more avaricious in rapacity, and who more lavish in generosity? That man, gentlemen, had many features that were paradoxical. He had a wide circle of friends, and he looked after them well. What he had, he shared with everyone. He helped all his friends in times of need with money, influence, physical exertion, even, if necessary, with recklessness and crime. He could adapt and control the way he was to suit the occasion, and twist and turn his nature this way and that. He could be stern with the serious, relaxed with the free-and-easy, grave with the old, affable with the young, daring with criminals, and dissolute with the depraved. [14] And so this complex, ever-changing character, even when he had collected all the wicked traitors from far and wide, still held many loyal, brave men in his grasp by a sort of pretended semblance of virtue. Indeed, that dastardly attempt to destroy this empire could never have come

into being had not that monstrous concentration of so many vices been rooted in certain qualities of skill and endurance.

Therefore, members of the jury, you should reject the prosecution's argument, and refuse to allow my client's association with Catiline to count against him: this is something he has in common with many other people, including some fine patriots. I, I myself, I tell you, was almost taken in by him on one occasion,* when I took him to be a loyal citizen, eager to be on good terms with all the best people, and a dependable and faithful friend. I did not believe his crimes until I came upon them with my eyes, or suspect them until I had laid my hands on them. If Caelius was also among his wide circle of friends, it is better that he should be angry with himself at his own mistake (just as I sometimes am about my own misjudgement of Catiline) than that he should have to fear a charge of having been a friend of his.

[15] So your speech has gone from slanders about my client's sexual morality to using the conspiracy to stir up prejudice against him. For you implied, although in a hesitant and sketchy manner, that because of his friendship with Catiline, he must have been a member of the conspiracy. At this point not only did the charge fail to hang together, but this fluent young man's speech scarcely did so either. So let me ask you, what terrible madness was there that came over Caelius? What terrible wound had he suffered, either psychologically or in his personal circumstances? And when was Caelius' name ever mentioned in connection with the conspiracy? I do not wish to go on for too long discussing matters about which there is not the slightest doubt, but this I will say: if Caelius had been a member of the conspiracy, or even if he had been anything other than implacably opposed to it, he would surely never have used a charge of conspiracy* as his preferred means of promoting his youthful abilities.

[16] Apropos of this, I rather think that the question of electoral malpractice and the charges relating to political clubs and the distribution of bribes* (since this is the point I have reached) can be disposed of in the same way. For if Caelius had really sullied his reputation with the unstinted bribery that you speak of, he would hardly have been so insane as to prosecute another person* for the same crime. Nor would he deliberately cause someone else to be suspected of this crime if he wanted to have the freedom to do it